

What is claimed is:

1. A method for removing paraffin from a tissue embedding mold, comprising steps of:
 - (a) placing the tissue embedding mold in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning vessel;
 - (b) introducing an aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel in an amount sufficient to cover the tissue processing mold;
 - (c) heating the aqueous cleaning solution to at least the melting point of the paraffin contained on the tissue processing mold;
 - (d) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the heated aqueous cleaning solution for a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the tissue processing mold melts from the tissue embedding mold to produce a paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution;
 - (e) passing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel; and
 - (f) repeating steps (b) - (e) until the tissue processing mold is substantially free of paraffin.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
agitating the aqueous cleaning solution to facilitate removal of paraffin from the tissue embedding mold.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the aqueous cleaning solution is agitated by heating the aqueous cleaning solution to at least the boiling point of the aqueous cleaning solution.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising step of:
introducing a surfactant to the aqueous cleaning solution prior to introducing the aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
introducing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution passed from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank provided with a plurality of baffles;
heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the paraffin;
maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of the paraffin;
passing the paraffin containing aqueous solution by the upper ends of the baffles where the paraffin in the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution solidifies on the upper ends of the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing solution to produce a treated aqueous cleaning solution; and
passing the treated aqueous cleaning solution from the tank.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising step of:

passing the treated aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of removing the paraffin from the upper ends of the baffles.

8. A method for removing paraffin from a tissue embedding mold, comprising steps of:

- (a) placing the tissue embedding mold in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning vessel;
- (b) introducing a cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel in an amount sufficient to cover the tissue embedding mold;
- (c) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the cleaning solution for a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the tissue embedding mold dissolves from the tissue embedding mold to produce a paraffin containing cleaning solution;
- (d) passing the paraffin containing cleaning solution from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel; and
- (e) repeating steps (b) - (d) until the tissue embedding mold is substantially free of paraffin.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
heating the cleaning solution to at least the melting point of the paraffin contained
on the tissue embedding mold.
10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:
agitating the cleaning solution to facilitate removal of paraffin from the tissue
embedding mold.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the cleaning solution is agitated by heating
the cleaning solution to at least the boiling point of the cleaning solution.
12. The method of claim 8 further comprising step of:
introducing a surfactant to the cleaning solution prior to introducing the cleaning
solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

13. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

introducing the paraffin containing cleaning solution passed from the mold receiving

chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank provided with a plurality of baffles;

heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the paraffin;

maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of the paraffin;

passing the paraffin containing cleaning solution by the upper ends of the baffles where the paraffin in the paraffin containing cleaning solution solidifies on the upper ends of the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing solution to produce a treated cleaning solution; and

passing the treated cleaning solution from the tank.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising step of:

passing the treated cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of removing the paraffin from the upper ends of the baffles.